

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD SECURES FUNDING FOR MULTIPLE COLORADO CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN FINAL INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he has secured funding for three major Colorado conservation projects in the 2006 Interior Appropriations bill that received final approval Friday and is on its way to the White House for the President's signature.

"The projects funded in this legislation are designed to preserve and protect some of Colorado's most magnificent scenery, as well as water and wildlife assets, for future generations to appreciate and enjoy," said Senator Allard, who also sits on the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Interior Appropriations bill provides funding for the following Colorado projects:

- * \$500,000 to acquire land for the High Elk Corridor in the Elk Mountains between the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area and the Raggeds Wilderness Area in the White River National Forest. The FY 2006 funding will complete the federal portion of this purchase, with the remaining portion to be purchased with privately raised funds;
- * \$1.5 million for Banded Peak Ranch in Southern Colorado to complete a two-phase conservation easement. Protection of this area complements the Navajo River Protection Plan and helps ensure sustained flows of clean water downstream;
- * \$964,000 for the Platte River Fish Recovery program, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Colorado Department of Wildlife cooperative program to implement the recovery of four species, the Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Least Tern, and Pallid Sturgeon, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

This legislation funds U.S. Park Service and Bureau of Land Management operations as well.

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